

Appl. No. : 10/005,751
Filed : November 7, 2001

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview on October 28, 2003, the summary of which is included. Applicant further thanks the Examiner for her gracious offer to consider this amendment. Claims 1-45 and 47-57 are pending. Claims 47-57 have been added.

Amendments

A force-related limitation has been added in the previously presented independent Claims 1, 18, 21, 25, 30, 35, 38, 39, and 45. Claims 47-57 have been added to further specify forces. Dependent Claims 40 and 44 have been amended to align with language in the corresponding independent Claim 39. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at pages 9 to 11.

Conclusion

Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as previously discussed. In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is specifically requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. The patentability of each individual claim rests on that individual claim as a whole. Thus, any remarks based on a portion of a claim should not be taken as founding patentability solely on that portion. Although amendments and cancellations have been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby. Rather such have been made to expedite prosecution and are without prejudice to assertion of the subject matter in future applications.